

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5136

As of January 22, 1997

Title: An act relating to increasing anadromous fish runs in the Elwha river.

Brief Description: Increasing anadromous fish runs in the Elwha river.

Sponsors: Senators Hargrove, Oke, Snyder and Morton.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Natural Resources & Parks: 1/28/97.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

Staff: Ross Antipa (786-7413)

Background: Construction of Aldwell Dam on the Elwha River has resulted in blockage of upstream migration of anadromous fish. Current anadromous fish usage is limited to the lower four miles of the Elwha.

Reestablishment of anadromous fish runs in tributaries of the Elwha River above Aldwell Dam would begin the process of restoration of salmon and steelhead runs.

Summary of Bill: Anadromous fish must be reintroduced into Elwha River tributaries above Aldwell Dam and below Glines Canyon Dam. Native stocks are exclusively utilized to maximize survival. The Department of Fish and Wildlife must conduct a cooperative program with the owners of the dam, government entities and cooperative groups. The department must assess methods for passing adult fish above Aldwell Dam if the dam is not removed by the time that anadromous fish are expected to return from the reintroduction efforts.

Appropriation: \$500,000.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 20, 1997.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.